



Barking & Dagenham Safeguarding Children Partnership

Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangement in response to Working Together 2023

Version	Author	Significant Changes	Date
V1	YB	First working draft	16/08/24
V1.2	YB	Second working draft	02/10/24
V2	YB	Third working draft shared with CB and FMC	05/12/24
V2.2.	DSP	MASA	18/12/24
V 4	YB	Final Draft to DSPs and DSP Reps	20/12/24
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V6	YB	Updated following Jan 2025 DSP meeting	07/02/25
V7	DSP	Update following MPS directives	11/02/25
V8	YB	Updated following feedback from DSPs	07/03/25
V9	DSP	Updated following meeting	10/03/25
V10	YB	Final Version circulated to DSPs	20/03/25
V11	Yb / DSPs	Final Version after Partnership Forum	30/04/25
V11.1	RH	Final version with corrected links	16/06/25

Foreword

Welcome to the Barking & Dagenham's Safeguarding Children Partnership's revised Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA) for children and young people.

As Local Safeguarding Partners we acknowledge we all have equal and joint responsibility for the safeguarding arrangements across all key agencies working in Barking and Dagenham.

This document sets out both our vision, commitment, and future expectations, to ensure effective partnership working to safeguard children in Barking and Dagenham that builds on our existing good practice and learning.

We know what we want to achieve as a committed partnership so to ensure we get the partnership arrangements to where we strive to be we have identified ongoing work for 2025 to 26 to consolidate the detail of these arrangements.

This will be supported by prioritised project work detailed in our BDSCP Strategic Business Plan 2025/26 (1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026) referenced in this document. Our strategic business plan will be reviewed in June and August 2025 by the Executive Group.

We will publish our multi-agency safeguarding arrangements on the Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Children Partnership ([BDSCP](#)) [web pages](#).

Geographical Areas and Boundaries

London Borough of Barking and Dagenham (LBBD) local authority boundaries, in East London, define the geographical area covered by Barking and Dagenham's Safeguarding Children Partnership (BDSCP).

The East London Integrated Care Board (ICB) covers the 8 north east London boroughs. The Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) covers all 32 London boroughs of which 5 are in north-east London. Recognising this the BDSCP will continue to work collaboratively with partners across the north-east region, and wider London, to maintain consistency.

Introduction

It is crucial we have a timely, appropriate, and co-ordinated approach to safeguarding children and young people within Barking and Dagenham. BDSCP recognises **“safeguarding is everyone's responsibility”** and will ensure children, alongside their families, and their communities, are at the centre of our arrangements to make a positive difference to them.

BDSCP's ambition is that our safeguarding arrangements ensure everyone can recognise, respond, and fulfil their responsibilities to children, and their families, to support their resilience, and ensure that they are safeguarded effectively.

Our multi-agency safeguarding arrangements aim to ensure effective practice within the wider context of strategy and policy development of partnership working within Barking and

Dagenham, whilst giving opportunities to shape and influence policy development beyond our local area, leading to improved practice and outcomes for children and their families.

Geographical boundaries have led to regional and sub-regional arrangements being established by the ICB and MPS to engage with Local Safeguarding Partnerships that will provide the strategic steer for some elements of our local arrangements.

Our Vision & Pledges

Our partnership vision and principles align with Barking and Dagenham’s [Best Chance Strategy](#).

The ‘best chance’ pledges reflect our commitment to working with children and families in a collaborative manner, aimed at achieving our ambitious goals and addressing the priorities expressed by children, parents, and carers.

These pledges focus our efforts on delivering services that prioritise children and families, ensuring a seamless experience and fostering the best possible outcomes for them. These core values will be a guiding principle in our approach, setting high standards and providing a foundation for accountability.

Our Vision is ...

Working collaboratively to give babies, children, young people and their families the best chance in life... ..so every baby, child, young person and their family gets the best start, is healthy, happy and achieves, thrives in inclusive schools and settings, in inclusive communities, are safe and secure, free from neglect, harm and exploitation, and grow up to be successful young adults.

We Pledge

BDSCP accepts the **BEST CHANCE IN LIFE** shared partnership pledges. These pledges provide a clear focus for our activities, ensuring that our service delivery prioritises the needs of children and families, offers a seamless experience, and maximises the potential for positive outcomes.

These guiding values will permeate our approach, maintaining high standards, grounding us in essential priorities, and setting a basis for mutual accountability and enable us to provide care and support in a way that reduces inequality and builds equity in improved outcomes.

“Committing to early intervention, strengths based, trauma informed and relational ways of working.”

“Baby, child, young person and family centred” and going the extra mile

What does this mean: A shared commitment to reconfigure services and support to best meet children, young people, and family’s needs. In their communities and holistic to all of their needs. This will empower our staff to go the extra mile for our children and families to ensure they get the best outcomes.

“Committing to early intervention, strengths based, trauma informed and relational ways of working”

What does this mean; we are committed to good quality early intervention and in doing so, we will work together to agree a shared practice framework, language, and tools. This will be strength based, trauma informed, and places a value on relationships with children, young people, and their families as well as each other.

<i>“Compassion, respect, transparency and openness”</i>	What does this mean: We will have compassion and respect for one another and those we support, committed to communicate as partners, be open and honest about challenges, and recognise and praise success.
<i>“Integrating and joining up where it makes sense”</i>	What does this mean: We know babies, children and young people and families don’t care about organisational boundaries and just want to tell their story once and not fall between the cracks, have easily accessible services in their communities when they need them.
<i>“Tackling inequality of outcomes and experiences”</i>	What does this mean: We will stand together to make sure our children, young people and families, our staff and our communities life chances and daily experiences are not adversely impacted by inequality, discrimination, racism, and abuse. We will take responsibility to ensure we are culturally aware and competent in our work with families and each other.

Strategic Leadership

Lead Safeguarding Partners

In BDSCP our three statutory lead safeguarding partners (LSP’s) are:

Fiona Taylor

Chief Executive of the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham Council (LBBD)

Zina Etheridge

Chief Executive Officer, NHS, North East London Integrated Care Board

LSP authority has been delegated to

Diane Jones

Chief Nursing Officer, NHS, North-East London Integrated Care Board

Matt Twist

Assistant Chief Commissioner of Metropolitan Police Service (MPS)

Some LSP authority had been delegated to

Glen Pavelin, Area Commander, Metropolitan Police Service

The LSPs will:

- Set the strategic direction, vision, and culture of our safeguarding arrangements, including agreeing and reviewing priorities and resources required to deliver services effectively.
- Lead their organisation’s contribution to the shared priorities, ensuring strong governance, accountability, and reporting to hold organisations to account.
- Review and sign off key partnership documents.

- Provide shared oversight of learning from independent scrutiny, serious incidents, local child safeguarding practice reviews, and national reviews, ensuring recommendations are followed through, and have a demonstrable impact on practice.
- Ensure multi-agency arrangements have the necessary level of business support, including intelligence and analytical functions, to provide a robust oversight and understanding of practice.
- Ensure all relevant agencies are clear on their role and contribution to multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.

Delegated Safeguarding Partners (DSP's)

In BDSCP our three Delegated Safeguarding Partners as named by the LSP's are:

Elaine Allegretti

Strategic Director – Children and Adults, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham

Who may delegate to:

April Bald

Operational Director Childrens Care & Support, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham

and

Jane Hargreaves

Director of Education Commissioning, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham

Diane Jones

Chief Nursing Officer, NHS North-East London Integrated Care Board

Who has delegated some responsibilities to:

Rob Nicholls

Director of Nursing & Safeguarding, NHS North-East London Integrated Care Board

and

Korkor Ceasar

Deputy Director of Safeguarding, NHS North-East London Integrated Care Board

Stuart Bell

Chief Superintendent, East Area Basic Command Unit, Metropolitan Police Service

Who will be supported by:

Charmaine Laurencin

Detective Superintendent, Public Protection, East Area Basic Command Unit, Metropolitan Police Service

Named DSP's hold delegated responsibilities as agreed by the LSP's and will ensure, with the support of the partnership and Independent Scrutineer, that BDSCP delivers on its statutory functions as set out in *Working Together 2023*. These statutory functions are:

- Delivery and monitoring of multi-agency priorities and procedures to protect and safeguard children in our local area, in compliance with published arrangements and our agreed [Continuum of Need Document \(CoN\)](#).
- Close partnership working and engagement with education (at strategic and operational levels), and other relevant agencies, allowing better identification and response to harm.
- Implementation of effective information sharing arrangements between agencies, including data sharing that facilitates joint analysis between partner agencies.
- Delivery of high-quality and timely rapid reviews, and local child safeguarding practice reviews (CSPRs), with the impact of learning from local and national reviews, and independent scrutiny clearly evidenced in yearly reports.
- Provision of appropriate multi-agency safeguarding professional development and training.
- Seeking and responding to feedback from children and families about their experiences of services, and co-designing services to ensure children from different communities and groups can access the help and protection they need.
- Oversee, and be responsible for, the analysis, intelligence, and timely collection of data to support functions, including:
 - getting an accurate local picture of how effectively services are being delivered through regular communication across relevant agencies.
 - advising statutory safeguarding partners of the key challenges and emerging priorities

Partnership Chair

The chairing of the BDSCP Executive Group and BDSCP Board meetings will be covered on an agreed three yearly cycle with each one of the named statutory partners taking up the role for a 12-month period in turn to chair both the Executive and BDSCP Board meetings. DSP's will be supported by a named DSP representative, who will be from their agency. This will be coordinated alongside sub-regional partnerships to ensure that statutory partners do not chair more than one LSCP at a time.

The Executive Group Chair will:

- Develop strategic links, and hold all LSPs and DSPs, to account in fulfilling their safeguarding duties.
- Ensure local arrangements are designed to work collaboratively and effectively by encouraging and supporting development of partnership working between the LSPs, DSP's, independent scrutiny role and other BDSCP forums including BDSCP Board, Partnership Forum, committees and working groups.
- Chair Executive Group, and additional meetings convened in response to specific, or exceptional circumstances, supported by the business manager and independent scrutineer.
- Offer appropriate challenge to ensure partners are held accountable, and local arrangements operate effectively.

Independent Scrutiny

The independent scrutineer will be appointed by the LSP's to fulfil the following functions:

- Provide independent, rigorous, alongside effective support and challenge at a strategic and operational level.
- Provide assurance to the whole system on the effectiveness of the MASA through a range of scrutiny methods.
- Ensure statutory duties are fulfilled, quality assurance mechanisms are in place, and national and local CSPRs reviews are analysed with key learning areas identified and effectively implemented.
- Ensure the voice of children and families is considered as part of scrutiny and at the centre of arrangements through direct feedback, to inform policy and practice.
- Be a '**critical friend**' providing opportunities for two-way discussion and reflection between frontline practitioners and leaders to encourage and enable strong, clear, strategic leadership.
- Provide independent advice when there are disagreements between agencies and safeguarding partners and facilitate escalation procedures.
- Evaluate and contribute to multi-agency safeguarding arrangements and the annual report, alongside feeding into the wider accountability systems such as inspections.

Governance

The BDSCP aims to foster an environment where partners can respectfully and effectively challenge each other to enhance the partnership and its impact.

The Independent Scrutineer and wider partnership forums provide crucial challenge and scrutiny.

Annual reporting to the Cabinet (LBBD), Health & Well Being Board, Executive ICB, and Metropolitan Police Service offers further challenge, scrutiny, and governance.

BDSCP Annual Report

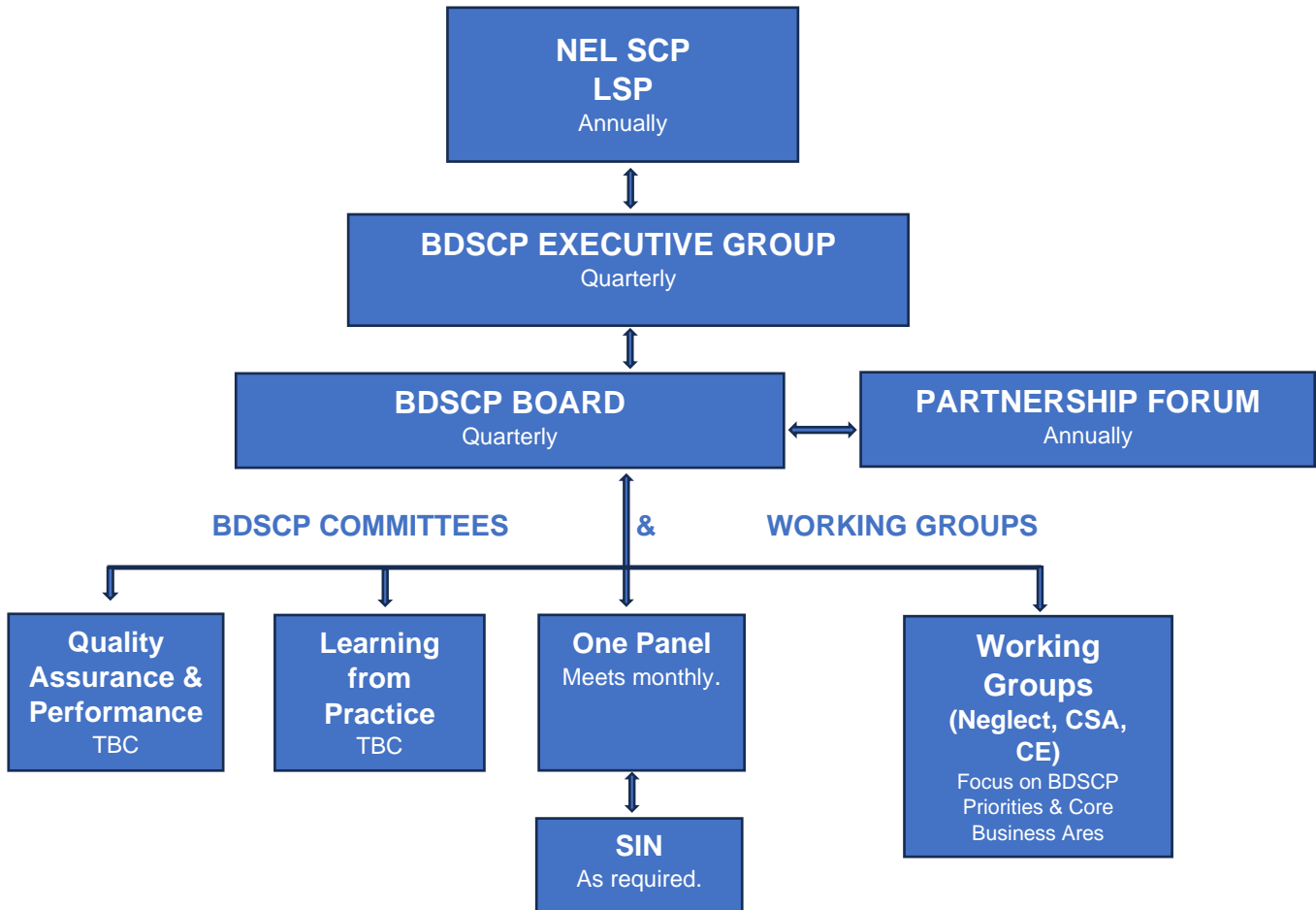
BDSCP will ensure that an annual report is published by 30 September each year which will comply with requirements detailed within *Working Together 2023* and focus on:

- What the partnership has done because of the arrangements, including CSPRs.
- How effective these arrangements have been in practice.

The annual report will identify the priorities for the following year. A copy will be sent to the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel as required in *Working Together 2023* and will be published on the BDSCP website / web pages.

The Partnership Structure

Figure 1: Delivery Structure Chart



The updated partnership structure shown above will be reviewed by 31 March 2026 to ensure it supports effective delivery of our responsibilities and Strategic Delivery Plan

All BDSCP work is underpinned by the voices and key messages from children, their families, communities, and the local workforce.

North-East London SCP LSP Meetings

North-East London’s ICB holds an annual meeting with LSP’s from across the sub-region to give strategic direction to local safeguarding children’s partnerships in the area.

This creates the opportunity to identify and progress areas of work for a consistent approach across the sub-region. Locally the LSPs and DSPs will seek to identify areas where there can be regional consistency or collaboration.

BDSCP Executive Group

BDSCP’s Executive Group meets quarterly focusing on implementing the strategic steer agreed by LSPs, have strategic oversight of the MASA and their effectiveness holding the

BDSCP Board to account alongside addressing key challenges and escalations identified by the BDSCP Board and Committees. The work of the committees and working groups will ensure progress of our Strategic Delivery Plan.

The Executive Group is chaired by one of the named DSPs for a 12-month period with the Metropolitan Police Service fulfilling this role for 2025 -2026

The Executive Group consists of the named DSP's and a named senior Education representative as an 'accountable partner' to strengthen the role of education within the strategic arrangements. Individual DSP representatives will offer advisory support to DSPs within these arrangements. Representatives from other organisations or relevant agencies may be invited to attend the Executive Group as part of our assurance work.

Executive Group meetings will only be quorate, and decision making valid, if all three statutory partners are present. DSPs set the agenda for the Executive Group with support from the BDSCP business unit which maintains a forward plan.

BDSCP Board Meetings

The BDSCP Board is chaired by the agreed DSP representative on an annual basis. From 2025 this will be chaired by the Metropolitan Police Service DSP representative.

Membership consists of Executive Group members or their nominated representatives, committee and working group chairs, and includes representatives health providers, Probation, CAFCASS, education (including primary, secondary, early years and further education providers) and public health.

The BSCP Board will have oversight of any identified risks for the partnership, hold the committee and working group chairs to account against the agreed actions within the BDSCP Strategic Delivery Plan by holding sessions and progress and monitor the delivery of the BDSCP Strategic Delivery Plan.

BDSCP Board meetings will only be quorate, and decision making valid, if all three statutory partners are present.

Annual Partnership Forum

BDSCP's Partnership Forum consists of Executive Group and BDSCP Board members, our Independent Scrutineer, committee chairs, BDSAB and CSP managers, key partners, and representatives from DWP, housing, fire service, prisons and YOI, licensing, LADO, CSV, sport, and faith sector representatives. This will be chaired by the Executive Group chair.

The Partnership Forum will meet in February / March annually to ensure that ensure wider partnership awareness of BDSCP developments as well as undertaking an annual stocktake of progress of the BDSCP Strategic Delivery Plan, emerging learning, themes and issues from reviews and quality assurance activity as well as informing the BDSCP annual report and agreeing priorities for the following year. In March 2025 this includes confirmation of the agreed MASA.

BDSCP Committees

All committees are attended by the business manager.

The Executive Group will agree the chair, and vice chair, annually to ensure arrangements are equitable across partnership agencies whilst maximising partners strengths and expertise.

Terms of reference, chairing, membership, and frequency of the committees will be agreed annually with actions reflected within the annual BDSCP Strategic Delivery Plan. The BDSCP Board will directly hold committees to account on delivery of agreed actions within the Strategic Delivery Plan which will be detailed within a committee action tracker and template. Committees require statutory partners present to be quorate.

The BDSCP will have three standing committees:

- One Panel
- Learning from Practice
- Quality Assurance & Performance

One Panel:

This established joint panel with CSP¹ and BDSAB² meets monthly to coordinate the statutory review processes for CSPR, SAR and DHRs alongside other learning reviews.

Chairing rotates across statutory partners for both children and adults. It is proposed in line with new MASA arrangements that the One Panel chair is agreed on an annual basis. For 2025/26 this will be chaired by the Metropolitan Police Service.

SIN (Significant Incident Notifications), and subsequent rapid review processes, for BDSCP, sit outside of this committee to meet statutory requirements and timescales.

Learning from Practice:

The BDSCP has a Learning from Practice Committee responsible for a multi-agency strategy that complements individual agencies' learning and development activities. The goal is to ensure that the partnership workforce is knowledgeable, confident, and competent in safeguarding practices with children, young people, and their families.

The BDSCP will review its Learning and Development Strategy annually to ensure it meets the partnership's needs as detailed in MASA and incorporates lessons from reviews and quality assurance activities. This joint committee with BDSAB will focus on providing a consistent approach to learning and addressing cross-cutting themes such as transitional safeguarding and whole family working.

The learning and development offerings will include partnership training, lunch and learns, and various learning materials and tools, recognising the pressures on individual agencies. This

¹ Community Safety Partnership

² Barking & Dagenham Safeguarding Adult Board

approach aims to deliver a consistent message to both children and adult partnership workforces and efficiently utilise resources by providing a comprehensive program of learning and development activities based on statutory expectations, audit and review findings, and workforce feedback.

The work of this committee will be underpinned by the updated Learning and Development Strategy and training programme (learning and development offer).

Quality Assurance & Performance:

This committee is being established as BDSCP is aware of the need for a robust quality assurance framework, and multi-agency data set, that alongside learning from reviews and messages from children, and families, will enable us to develop our **'Safeguarding Story'** for multi-agency work within Barking and Dagenham.

Currently most quality assurance activity, and performance data, is local authority based so BDSCP knows we need to better understand the impact of multi-agency working on individual practice and outcomes for children, young people, and their families.

In early 2025/26 BDSCP will establish this committee to lead on the data and intelligence function as outlined in "*Working Together 2023*". This will be underpinned by high quality performance information and quality assurance activity from across the partnership to help us understand Barking and Dagenham's **'Safeguarding Story.'**

BDSCP will review its' current performance data set, and quality assurance framework, to ensure it includes how the BDSCP will complete:

- Section 11 audit / Section 175 audit
- Multi-agency audit programme
- Score cards / performance data sets for key BDSCP areas of work and priorities.
- Partnership Dashboard
- JTAI preparation (for which it has been agreed the BDSCP will take the lead)
- Workforce survey
- Assurance reporting

BDSCP will explore options locally, as well as sub-regionally, through the NEL LSP meetings to confirm if this is an area for sub-regional, or regional, collaboration.

Working Groups

There are partner led working groups established, which drive the agreed priorities for BDSCP. The working groups during 2024/25 were:

- Neglect
- Child Exploitation
- Child Sexual Abuse

As noted earlier the Partnership Forum will identify the priorities for the partnership annually. The BDSCP annual Strategic Delivery Plan will detail the workplan and associated activity for all working groups established to progress our priorities.

Chairing, membership, and frequency of working groups will be confirmed when each group is established. The three statutory partners will be represented on working groups with meetings are not quorate without their attendance.

Working groups will outline what needs to be achieved, to ensure that completed work is sustainable and 'business as usual' when it is no longer a BDSCP priority.

Business Unit

The LSP's will agree the BDSCP resource to ensure the effective delivery of the BDSCP plan and fulfilment of statutory responsibilities. The business unit functions will include:

- Providing business support to BDSCP Executive Group, Board, and Partnership Forum.
- Timely administration of all aspects of BDSCP and substructure activity.
- Providing BDSCP with high quality performance and quality assurance information.
- Collaborating with partners to ensure learning reviews are undertaken in a robust, timely way and that learning is disseminated across the partnership.
- Promoting effective connectivity between Executive Group and all substructures.
- Supporting multi-agency induction as well as learning and development activity.
- Ensuring consistent promotion of profession business standards.
- Reporting to Executive Group on the monitoring and management of professional escalations/disputes.
- Drafting the BDSCP annual report with the Independent Scrutineer.
- Having oversight of the budget and providing regular budget reports to the BDSCP.
- Establishing and maintaining links with other Barking and Dagenham partnerships for example: Adults Safeguarding Board (BDSAB) and Community Safety Partnership (CSP).

The business unit manager will attend all key BDSCP meetings helping to "join the dots" across the BDSCP Executive Group, Board, Partnership Forum, and committees, in relation to our ongoing work plan, learning from reviews and key messages from children, and families.

The business unit structure and support will be reviewed in line with the partnership's priorities going forward.

Priorities and Strategic Delivery Plan

The BDSCP will maintain a Strategic Delivery Plan detailing the annual programme of work, including actions to develop our MASA and BDSCP priorities. The annual review of delivery plans and priorities will be documented in the BDSCP annual report, identifying future priorities.

Each committee and working group will have specific actions within the plan, contributing to the overarching delivery plan and priorities. Priorities will be reviewed and agreed annually during the full partnership meeting in February/March, based on emerging issues, themes, and insights from Barking and Dagenham's safeguarding story.

Children's views will be considered when setting priorities and workplans, with opportunities sought for collaboration with children.

The Full Partnership may agree on some priorities for extended periods (e.g., 2-3 years) to ensure sustainable developments. The Strategic Delivery Plan, effective from April 2025, will outline key actions for advancing MASA to the desired state.

The Executive Group will monitor the Strategic Delivery Plan, focusing on MASA development, BDSCP priorities, learning, and statutory functions. Reviews will occur on 31 March 2025, 30 June 2025, and 31 March 2026 as a minimum.

Relevant Agencies

Relevant agencies are those organisations and agencies whose involvement is required to safeguard and promote the welfare of local children. BDSCP will ensure that all relevant agencies are linked into the BDSCP business by:

- Including their representation within the BDSCP Board, Partnership Forum, committees and working groups as appropriate to them.
- BDSCP's business unit ensuring up to date information is accessible on the website, newsletters, and other promotional / information sharing materials.

The BDSCP will continue to engage relevant partners within its' work and key actions will be incorporated into the BDSCP Strategic Delivery Plan.

Education Providers, Child Care & Early Years

Education is a named "accountable partner" with a named senior leader on the Executive Group, BDSCP Board, and Partnership Forum. This will ensure BDSCP is kept apprised of key developments from within the sector so that implications for partnership working receive a prompt, coordinated response.

During 2025/26 BDSCP will work with education, schools, early years, and childcare providers to ensure they are engaged in, and their role is strengthened within BDSCP's MASA. In the interim the business manager will act as a conduit between education, early years, and childcare providers, and the BDSCP, to ensure their engagement and involvement in MASA moving forwards. (see page 9)

Community, Voluntary, Sport and Faith Sector

During 2025/26, BDSCP will collaborate with relevant colleagues to ensure effective engagement with the community, sport, voluntary and faith sector, and ensure they are invited to the Partnership Forum and other relevant BDSCP activities.

The partnership will work with regional sports colleagues to support safeguarding and to promote the welfare of children and young people engaging in sport activity.

Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPRs)

The purpose of serious child safeguarding case reviews, at local and national level, is to identify improvements that can be made to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Reviews seek to prevent or reduce the risk of recurrence of similar incidents.

As noted earlier the One Panel oversees BDSCP's reviews ensuring links to the decision making and processes for SARs (Safeguarding Adult Reviews), and DHRs (Domestic Homicide Reviews). This also supports transitional safeguarding and whole family working.

The One Panel, supported by the business unit, ensures good quality reviews are completed in a timely manner, ensures learning is promptly disseminated, and that there is close connectivity between all appropriate committees regarding learning from reviews.

By June 2025, the BDSCP will have reviewed its arrangements for rapid reviews and commissioning CSPR to ensure that they are timelier, and the embedding of learning across the workforce is prompt. We will ensure that those professionals, and agencies, involved in rapid reviews and the One Panel feel confident in fulfilling this role.

There will also be clear processes for significant incidents / deaths relating to young people aged under 25 years, including care leavers, to ensure that any learning is focused across both the children and adult partnerships.

The voice of children and families

The voices of children and families are essential for understanding the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements in Barking and Dagenham. We strive to ensure their perspectives inform all our work by building on existing partnerships, identifying their key messages regarding safeguarding, and collaborating on opportunities for improvement.

The BDSCP will collaborate with partners and local agencies to leverage their engagement activities to understand the safeguarding priorities of children and families, with regular engagement activity reports shared with the BDSCP.

By September 2025, the BDSCP will have enhanced the engagement of children and families in its work and will establish clear arrangements for their involvement in planning and identifying priorities annually, co-creating and co-producing work

Workforce Engagement

This work sits in the context of our wider engagement strategy that covers several elements including:

- Multi-agency safeguarding induction and our learning and development offer.
- The wider work of the committees, including connectivity with local safeguarding networks,
- Working through the CVS and sports networks will link to BDSCP work with relevant agencies, including exploring potential of partnership forum

Other Key Business

Funding

The LSP's are jointly responsible to ensure the annual budget is **sufficient** and **supports the annual requirements** of local BDSCP arrangements. This will require resources provided by the three statutory partners to cover the following activity.

- Independent Scrutineer
- Business Unit
- Learning and Development activity
- Quality assurance and performance activity
- Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews
- Other agreed BDSCP activity detailed within the Strategic Delivery Plan.

The statutory partners are committed to ensuring equity by agreeing the resources – both monetary and in kind, to deliver on the agreed MASA in line with '*Working Together 2023*' expectations.

Monetary contributions by the statutory partners will be agreed on an annual basis. Additional contributions from other partners will be confirmed annually. BDSCP will review the resource requirements required to support the new MASA arrangements at the start of 2025 ready for the new financial year. The business unit will provide regular financial updates will to the BDSCP and LSPs.

Information Sharing

BDSCP has an information sharing agreement that will be reviewed annually alongside the Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements. As indicated in '*Working Together 2023*' the BDSCP

can request information from any individual agency or organisation to discharge its statutory responsibilities.

This will be reviewed in 2025/26 to ensure it is aligned with the Safeguarding Adult Board's, and Community Safety Partnerships expectations on agencies within the BDSCP area.

Thresholds / Continuum of Need

Barking and Dagenham's Multi Agency Continuum of Need ([thresholds guidance](#)) is included within the BDSCP's Online Procedures This document is agreed by the BDSCP.

The guidance document is for everyone who works with children, and their families - within the area – and sets out how partners can work together, share information, and put the child and their family at the centre of practice, providing effective support to help them solve problems and find solutions at an early stage to prevent problems escalating. It sets out how we approach the vital task of keeping children and young people safe and protected from harm.

The guidance is a vital tool that underpins the local vision to provide support services at the earliest opportunity – right through to specialist and statutory interventions when these are needed to promote the welfare and safety of vulnerable children and young people. It offers a clear framework and common understanding of thresholds of need for practitioners within all agencies, to promote a shared awareness of the different interventions required to effectively support children, young people and their families or carers.

Professional Differences / Escalation

The BDSCP has a process for addressing professional differences regarding partnership decisions and interventions. This process ensures that such differences do not impede good practice and robust decision-making, prioritising the best interests of the child or young person. Add in link.

Any disagreements should be promptly raised and resolved. The BDSCP will also define its escalation process for disputes between statutory partners and business groups. The Executive Group will receive regular updates on any escalations within the partnership.

Partnership Complaints

Complaints about a single partner agency will be managed through the agencies' own process.

Children, and / or their families, may wish to make a complaint about the work or decision making of the partnership, for example in Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and other learning activity.

The BDSCP will develop a complaints process to confirm how it will response to complaints.

Finally...

BDSCP partners recognise there is progress to be made during 2025 to 2026 to ensure we strengthen existing foundations to build our MASA moving forward. LSPs, DSPs and wider partners see this as a crucial but exciting time to ensure moving forward we are in a position of

strength and that as MASA are effective to ensure a positive impact on partnership working and outcomes for our children and their families.